



Hillcroft Primary School

Friday 6th October 2023

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

Nurture Inspire Strive

We have had a great two weeks here at Hillcroft with lots of lovely learning opportunities happening across the school.

This week we welcomed The Dog Trust into school to work with our KS2 children- teaching children all about dogs- from how to care for a dog to how to approach and handle a dog if you are scared. It was lovely to see the children engaged and keen to ask some really sensible questions. We hope to have the organisation return later in the year to work with our KS1 and EYFS pupils.



We also held our first Parent and Carer workshop of this academic year. It was lovely to welcome so many parents to our Early Reading Workshop- helping our families to support their child read at home. Thank you to Mrs Gear for leading the workshop. If you missed the workshop, the slides are available on the website under the 'Parent Workshop' tab.



We hope you have a lovely weekend, and look forward to seeing you on Monday,
Miss Summers

Key Dates:

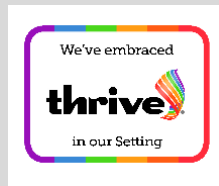
Please see link to whole school Key Dates calendar:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18bNyLzgw2qdmfwcFkypQe-ZxIRc6hJTGnHXv9cLGrM/edit>

Please note that year group celebration assembly dates have now been added to the calendar and the dates on the Year 1 Christmas Assembly has changed. PTA event dates have also been added.

Thursday 12th- 9am- KS2 Parent Reading workshop- more information below.

Friday 13th October- Year 1 cake sale- 3pm on the front playground- cash only



A message from Mrs Pearson.

This week I wanted to talk about "School Refusal" but I would like to call it "School Avoidance" as there is always a reason why they do not want to come to school. We just have to work out what the reason is.

There are many reasons right now that children are struggling to come into school. We must be curious about the reason school avoidance is on the increase and look to see how we can put relationships in place to ensure that we create the safety needed to enter school and be ready to learn.

When children completely refuse to go to school this can be extremely distressing for all parties. It is often accompanied by meltdowns, physical complaints such as stomach-aches, headaches, vomiting, rapid heartbeat, dizziness, pleading or begging to stay at home and even young people threatening to harm themselves if they are made to go to school.

What is emotionally based school avoidance?

Emotionally based school avoidance is child-motivated refusal to attend school or difficulties in remaining in school the entire day. Emotionally based school avoidance is a condition characterised by reluctance or refusal to go to school by a child who:

- *Seeks the comfort and security of home, preferring to remain close to parental figures
- *Displays evidence of emotional upset or unexplained physical symptoms at the prospect of going to school
- *Manifests no severe antisocial tendencies
- *Does not attempt to conceal the problem from parents or caregivers

Why do children experience emotionally based school avoidance?

The root cause of emotionally based school avoidance is anxiety, which will look very different according to the age of the child. Younger children may be more anxious about being separated from caregivers, fear a teacher, or fear being picked on by older children. Frequently older children have concerns about academic performance, worries about making friends, eating in the dinner hall, using the school toilets, changing for PE, being called on in class, or being made fun of by peers. Some children fear being bullied.

What kinds of support are effective for emotionally based school avoidance?

Get back into school - perhaps surprising for some, the number one factor increasing the likelihood of success with children who struggle attending school, school is an early return to the physical environment of school. Identifying particular classes which the child can attend, identifying a limited time period where the child is required to be in the building, or identifying certain days which the child must attend are all legitimate strategies to employ and starting points for intervention goals and objectives.

If your child is unable to go to school you will need to provide extra support both practically and emotionally, but there is a lot you can do to help them.

* Ask what it is about school that makes them feel unable to go in. Listen, tell them you understand how hard this must be for them, and take their worries seriously.

* Don't shout, tell them off or physically force them to go to school, as this is likely to increase their anxiety. Try to stay calm and positive.

* Let your child get used to the strategies you try and allow time to see if they help before moving on.

* Praise small successes such as getting out of bed at the right time, or collecting work from school. Understand that some days your child may not manage schoolwork. Progress is not always linear, try again the next day.

* Education is a legal requirement. Explain to your child that if they cannot go to school, they will need to study at home. Work with school to facilitate learning and set tasks, and use online resources such as BBC Bitesize for curriculum-linked work.

* Dealing with school refusal can be very isolating and stressful, especially if you are also juggling work and other family commitments. Try to find some support and time for yourself. Your resilience and wellbeing is important for your child too.

Coffee Afternoon

Tara and I would like to invite you to our first coffee afternoon of the school year. This will take place on Friday 20th October at 2pm in the Treehouse. Please come through the carpark and the doors will be open. Pop along for tea/coffee & biscuits and have a good chat. Let us know how your child is doing at school, if we can help you in any way, or if there are any worries at home. Whatever you would like to talk about, come and see Mrs Pearson and Tara.



Pupil Parliament 2023-2024

We are pleased to announce the elected members of our committees and Pupil Parliament for this year. Well done to ALL the children who took part – they should be very proud of themselves and we are just sorry that there are not enough positions for all children to be elected.

Our congratulations go to the below children and Mrs Hardcastle and the other leaders look forward to working with the children this year on their journey in supporting the development of the school.

Prime Ministers (Year 6)

Danny and Lily-Rose

Deputy Prime Ministers (Year 6)

Ethan and Roma

Fundraising and Events Committee (Year 6)

Lovelace House Captains: Lacey and Charlie S

Brunel House Captains: Paige and Alfie

Newton House Captains: Charlie C and Zaylia

Darwin House Captains: Harrison and Abigail

Well-Being Committee (Years 1 – 6)

Felix (Beech Class), Chloe (Willow Class), Phoebe (Chestnut Class), Leo (Sycamore Class), Phoebe (Maple Class), Nathan (Rowan Class), Poppy (Birch Class), Isabella (Cedar Class), Jamie (Larch Class), Neve (Aspen Class), Finlay (Oak Class), Daniel (Acer Class)

Eco Committee (Years 1 – 6)

Liam (Beech Class), Charlotte C (Willow Class), Stanley M (Chestnut Class), Lilly (Sycamore Class), Fraser (Maple Class), Maddie (Rowan Class), Amelka (Birch Class), Effie (Cedar Class), Eli (Larch Class), Dameon (Aspen Class), Isabella and Morgan (Oak Class), Jacob (Acer Class)

Curriculum Committee (Years 1 – 6)

Emily (Beech Class), Jenin (Willow Class), Brooke D (Chestnut Class), Louie (Sycamore Class), Darcie B (Maple Class), Isla (Rowan Class), Henry (Birch Class), Sammy (Cedar Class), Jacob (Larch Class), Toby (Aspen Class), Amelia M (Oak Class), Lottie (Acer Class)

Health Committee (Years 1 – 6)

Thalia (Beech Class), Emily (Willow Class), Beau (Chestnut Class), Archie (Sycamore Class), Charlie C (Maple Class), katie (Rowan Class), Chloe G (Birch Class), Albie (Cedar Class), Nikie-Leigh (Larch Class), Phoebe (Aspen Class), Josh (Oak Class), Connor (Acer Class)

Behaviour Committee (Years 1 – 6)

Ava K (Beech Class), Freddie (Willow Class), William C (Chestnut Class), Elowen (Sycamore Class), Meadow (Maple Class), Daniel (Rowan Class), Eleanor (Birch Class), Alfie R (Cedar Class), Emily (Larch Class), Olivia C (Aspen Class), Merin (Oak Class), Danielle (Acer Class)

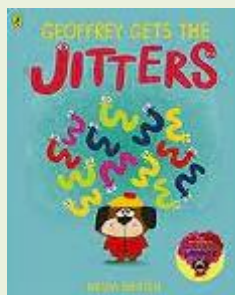
Reading Committee (Years 1-6)

Frankie G (Beech Class), Jesse (Willow Class), Ellie (Chestnut Class), Penelope (Sycamore Class), Phoebe (Maple Class), Rael (Rowan Class), Joseph (Birch Class), Abbie (Cedar Class), Amin (Larch Class), Bethany (Aspen Class), AJ (Acer Class)

A Reading Community

This week, Mrs Geary – our Reading Lead – has shared her recommendations.

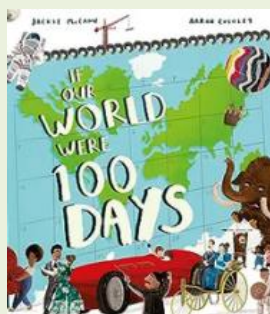
EYFS



Geoffrey Gets the Jitters- Nadia Shireen

Another amazing book about feelings. Getting children to recognise their 'jitters' and giving them strategies to regulate and feel better.

KS1



If Our World Were 100 Days- Jackie McCann & Aaron Cushley

If the World Were 100 People is a fantastic look at the world and its inhabitants but this sequel takes a simplified look into history. It gives readers a great snapshot and puts lengths of time into much more understandable chunks.

A Reading Community continued...

LKS2



Peril on the Atlantic - A.M. Howell

A.M Howell is an absolute powerhouse in historical fiction so you always know that her books are going to grip you. This mystery is set in 1936 as the Queen Mary crosses the Atlantic - Alice and Sonny uncover a sinister plot and race to solve the mysteries that they're uncovering.

UKS2



A Place Called Perfect - Helena Duggan

A dystopian town called 'Perfect' is literally perfect, except all residents quickly require glasses... Could the lenses be hiding something sinister or is it just a price to pay for perfection?

Our Children's Talents and Interests



Maddie -Year 3, earned the trophy at rugby for great passing and great team work! She was very proud!



Laila, Abbie and Amelia- Year 4, they had their first game last week as a team and they won 15-2, they all played amazing and had great sportsmanship. Looking forward to the rest of the season with the team. Go U9 Bees.



Chloe- Year 4, was chosen to become a Secunder at Brownies last week.



Dolly-Rae -Year 3, would like to share her weekend achievements from her biggest race meeting of the year with you all. She won a third-place medal and trophy.

Edward, Year 3 - was awarded his Chief Scout's Bronze award which is the highest award a Beaver can achieve in Scouts.



Charlotte, Year 1 - was awarded her Chief Scout's Acorn Award which is the highest award a Squirrel can achieve in Scouts.



Libby, Year 1- was awarded 'player of the week' at rugby for being super-fast and not being caught by anybody! She was very proud!



Ava- Year 1, competed in a Gymnastics competition and also got her Level one swimming certificate.



Teddie -Year 3, has got a certificate for taking part in a sushi lesson whilst we were on holiday on a cruise in the summer holidays.

Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers in school to head hear children read of support on school trips. If you are able to offer any support, however big or small- please email Mrs Page on a.page@hillcroftschoool.org Your time and support is really appreciated.

KS2 Reading Parent & Carer Workshop

We warmly invite parents/carers to a reading workshop on Thursday 12th October 2023 at 9am. Within the workshop we will provide an overview of how reading is taught within KS2, give you an opportunity to meet our new reading ambassadors and hear from our Reading Lead, Mrs Geary. As well as providing information on Book Talk and reading fluency, we will also offer advice on encouraging a love of reading and strategies for helping your child read more at home.

The workshop will be in the school hall and we expect it to last for about 45 minutes. It is aimed at families with children in KS2 but everyone is welcome.

Computing update from Mrs Winsor

Rumble - what is it?

With the allegations against Russell Brand over the last couple of weeks, you may hear the media talking about a platform called Rumble. Essentially, it's a YouTube competitor founded in 2013 and appears to be gaining in popularity. This is because many of those who have been 'cancelled' by other platforms are able to keep talking to their fans on Rumble which has far more lax policies as the platform opposes censorship.

I had a quick look at the trending videos on Rumble just before I started typing this and at the top are Russell Brand and Donald Trump. There are hundreds of Andrew Tate videos (both by Tate and his followers) and as you can imagine, lots of disinformation, conspiracy theories and much more. Definitely one to keep your ears open for.

In other news...

Attendance Notice:

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority, they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

Bikeability

The Cycle Training Team at Surrey County Council are recruiting for Bikeability Cycling Instructors. If you are interested in signing up to the training to become an instructor, please use the link below. <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/jobs/search/details?id=29155>



HARVEST COLLECTION

COLLECTION POINT HERE

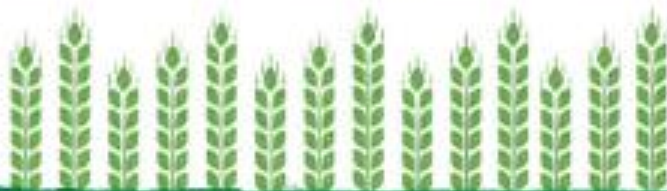
SHOPPING LIST MOST NEEDED

Tinned meat and fish
Jams and spreads
Couscous and noodles
Sponge puddings or
jellies
Tinned spaghetti or
beans
Tinned soup
Soap and shampoo
Small jars of coffee
Large nappies (size 4
up)

DONATE NOW!

Help by donating an item or two from the list to support people facing hardship.

You can also donate money to help to cover the costs of storing and distributing emergency food as well as delivering additional support and advice.



Caterham Foodbank (covering north Tandridge)
caterham.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1155330)